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Letter dated 12 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the Khartoum Declaration on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, issued by the States members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, which convened in Khartoum from 17 to 19 January 2004 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Elfatih **Erwa**
Permanent Representative

* A/59/50 and Corr.1.

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Khartoum Declaration on Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

We, the appointed delegations of the Member States of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for having hosted the sub-regional workshop for IGAD Member States for the promotion of the ratification of the international instruments against terrorism, as well as of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which jointly organized the workshop, held from 17 to 19 January 2004, in Khartoum, Sudan;

Participating in the sub-regional expert workshop of IGAD Member States, in the presence of the observer delegations from Algeria and Egypt, and of the following organizations and institutions: the African Union, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior, the European Union, the IGAD Secretariat, International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the International Monetary Fund, the Institute for Security Studies, the League of Arab States, the Naif University, the Organization of Islamic Conference, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; as well as the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council (CTC).

Commending the wide participation of IGAD Member States, Algeria, and Egypt, as well as of international, regional, sub regional organizations and other institutions, and calling on them to continue their coordination initiative in the area of combating terrorism and transnational organized crime;

Noting with appreciation the number of Arab States as well as African, Arab and Islamic institutions that have actively participated in the workshop in their capacity as observers, demonstrating thereby their resolve to take part in the regional and global bid to combat international terrorism;

Seriously concerned about the menace of terrorism and transnational organized crime in our region as well as on an international level;

Reaffirming our unreserved commitment to combat and eradicate the scourge of terrorism and transnational organized crime in our region and internationally in order to achieve the noble ideals of IGAD;

Strongly emphasizing that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential tools in the efforts to combat terrorism;

Conscious of the difficulties faced by our Member States to effectively implement these instruments to eradicate terrorism and transnational organized crime in our respective countries;

Recognizing the necessity to restore law, order and political stability in Somalia;

Noting with grave concern the dangers posed to the IGAD sub-region by the activities of livestock rustlers in the region, which have all characteristics of transnational organized crime, as well as links with small arms and light weapons trafficking;

Noting further that these activities have a vast risk of integrating with international terrorism and drug trafficking, and pose the danger of becoming a cause of inter-state wars

Acknowledging the vital role of IGAD in orchestrating the endeavour of its members to combat terrorism and to readily respond to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council;

Reaffirming our determination to put into effective practice the Implementation Plan to Counter Terrorism in the IGAD region, adopted by the IGAD Summit in Kampala, which, among others, provides for concrete measures to implement the international instruments against terrorism in the region;

Considering also our commitments to regional instruments including the *Algiers Plan of Action of the African Union on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa*, the 1999 *OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism*, and the 1998 *Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism*;

Underscoring the importance of technical assistance and capacity building, particularly in the field of drafting implementing legislation, and in relation to border control institutions, security agencies, financial institutions, and crime prevention units in our respective States;

Stressing the urgent need for cooperation and for technical and material assistance for border control among IGAD Member States;

Stressing the importance of joint actions and cooperation among member States and the international community, in the areas of exchange of information relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as of mutual legal assistance, extradition and investigation;

Noting the reference to the role of *International Criminal Police Organization* (Interpol) in Article 18 (13) of the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and in Article 18 (4) of the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism*, in relation to the implementation of these Conventions;

Desirous to give effect to our commitments to prevent and combat terrorism in our regions,

Hereby agree on the following framework for action:

Commend the IGAD Member States, which have become parties to the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, as well as to the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols*;

Call upon the IGAD Member States, which have not yet become parties to all the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, to accede to them as soon as possible, in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);

Call upon the IGAD Member States, which have not done so, to become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols as soon as possible;

Urge IGAD Member States to take all necessary national measures to afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigation or criminal proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts, including assistance in obtaining evidence in their possession necessary for the proceedings;

Call upon the IGAD Member States to cooperate, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, to prevent and suppress terrorist attacks and to take action against perpetrators of such acts, in accordance with the relevant provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001);

Call for urgent concerted international action, in collaboration with the IGAD Secretariat, towards the eradication of the activities of livestock rustlers from the IGAD region;

Call upon the IGAD Secretariat and participating international, regional and sub-regional organizations and other institutions working in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as donor countries, to assist IGAD Member States to collect, distribute and exchange information in this respect;

Welcome the efforts of the international community to coordinate the action against terrorism under the auspices of the CTC;

Call upon international, regional, and sub-regional organizations to strengthen their coordination efforts in the area of technical assistance, in order to maximize resources and to ensure that adequate assistance is provided to as many IGAD Member States as possible;

Call upon UNODC and the OHCHR to develop joint programs for the delivery of technical assistance in the areas of counter-terrorism and the promotion and protection of human rights;

Call upon the IGAD Secretariat to facilitate the orchestrating and forwarding of technical assistance requests on counter-terrorism from IGAD Member States through the Counter Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council;

Encourage IGAD Member States to use Interpol's tools and services to develop and ensure the exchange of information within the framework of UN conventions against terrorism and transnational organized crime;

Encourage the donor community to offer support to UNAFRI, more particularly financial and political support, in order to increase its capacity to respond effectively to the needs of IGAD Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

Building upon the *Implementation Plan to Counter Terrorism in the IGAD Region*, decide to organize annual sub-regional workshops in collaboration with the IGAD Secretariat and IGAD Member States in order to enhance the capabilities of the Member States, as well as the whole region to combat and eliminate international terrorism;

Undertake to assess the progress achieved through regular follow-up and review conferences in the IGAD region;

Commend the agreed individual Member States' action plans as follows:

Eritrea envisages to submit requests to the UNODC and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance on counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime issues, preferably through a joint mission, in the course of 2004;

Ethiopia envisages to submit requests to the UNODC and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance on counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime issues, preferably through a joint mission, in the course of 2004;

Kenya envisages to further evaluate its technical and capacity building assistance needs with the objective of submitting a specific request to the UNODC and other international and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, in the course of 2004;

Sudan envisages to submit a follow up technical assistance request to the UNODC and requests to other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide assistance, preferably through a joint mission, in the course of 2004;

Uganda envisages to submit requests to the UNODC and other international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as appropriate, to provide technical assistance on counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime issues, preferably through a joint mission, in the course of 2004.

19 January 2004
Khartoum, Sudan